



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development, Executive Member for Housing & Public Health
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Public Health, Strategic Director of Environment & Communities
DATE:	Thursday, 12 September 2024

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Growth & Development, Housing & Public Health
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: WorkWell Vanguard

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Board of the WorkWell Vanguard pilot programme following a successful grant application.

WorkWell is a joint Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) pilot that seeks to provide holistic support to overcome health-related barriers to employment, and a single, joined up pathway to wider support services.

The focus is on early intervention, supporting those at risk of falling out of employment and those who have recently fallen out of work due to health issues, within the first 12 weeks of unemployment.

It provides an opportunity for local systems to support everybody, including disabled people and people with health conditions, to start, stay, succeed in work and also to return to employment. WorkWell will support the development of integrated health and work services, which will provide person-centred health and work support based on a biopsychosocial model.

Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities (LAs) will play a central role in convening local partnerships to design and deliver the WorkWell Partnership Programme.

The WorkWell vanguard bid is based on supporting circa 1000 Blackburn with Darwen residents over the course of the programme, commencing in October 2024 through to March 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Note the successful outcome of the Vanguard application and authorise the acceptance of the funding allocation to Blackburn with Darwen up to the maximum potential of £807,700 as detailed in the finance section.

Subject to acceptance of grant and confirmation of the grant agreement, give authority to a supplementary revenue estimate of £240,000 in 2024/25 and £567,700 in 2025/26 (noting that a proportion of the grant funding is payment by results) being the necessary budget provision to deliver the work set out in this report.

Agree that a further report on this matter be submitted to the Executive Board in 12 months time detailing progress and, where it is possible to do so, outlining how this work might be sustained post March 2026.

3. BACKGROUND

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB footprint is a large geographic area with a total population of 1.8 million residents. The area is diverse with urban, rural and coastal communities, districts with large minority ethnic populations and areas of significant economic and social disadvantage.

The proposal is evidence-based and developed across a wide range of partners. It is driven by data developed via the Lancashire Data Observatory. The observatory has drawn on quantitative and qualitative evidence around healthy life expectancy, economic inactivity levels in each district, levels of deprivation, employment rates and age profiles of the population (*See table below*). This has led to the proposal to operate a vanguard across 7 Places within the ICB footprint which includes; Blackburn with Darwen, Barrow, Burnley, Blackpool, Lancaster & Morecambe, Preston and West Lancashire.

District/UA	Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth		% Economically inactive	% Of LSOAs in most deprived decile	Working Age Population		Employment Rate %
	Male	Female			Number	% Of population	
Blackburn with Darwen	76.7	81.1	27.3%	36.3%	97,200	62.7%	68.9%
Blackpool	74.7	79.9	25.4%	41.5%	87,000	61.7%	71.2%
Barrow-in-Furness	77.1	81.5	27.1%	24.5%	41,300	61.3%	71.2%
Burnley	76.1	80.1	28.6%	38.3%	58,300	61.6%	71.4%
Lancaster	78.1	81.9	20.5%	14.6%	89,700	63.0%	78.5%
Preston	77.4	81.3	19.4%	18.6%	96,500	65.3%	78.1%
West Lancashire	79.6	82.8	21.2%	8.2%	72,200	61.7%	72.2%

Summary Statistics of Vanguard Areas, Source: PHE Fingertips, ONS Annual Population Survey, MHCLG/DLUHC.

The ICB is the recipient of the funding but the programme is built on the 7 districts working together and sharing learning. The formal grant agreement is valued up to £4.578m with a maximum caseload of 5000. The proposal to develop a small core team to support across the networks is currently under development.

The methodology for the selection of areas to take part in the vanguard was based on the following:

- The size of the Universal Health Credit Health Caseload
- The proportion of Universal Credit claimants in each local authority district who have a conditionality regime of "No Work Requirements".
- The proportion of working age residents in each local authority district who are economically inactive
- The change in the employment rate in each local authority district between 2019 and 2023
- The proportion of working days annually lost to sickness absence
- The number of fit notes per 100,000 of the population.

Consultation with Job Centre Plus on their place-based priorities has supported informing the population cohorts.

Each locality has an additional focus on specific cohorts, Blackburn with Darwen's will be deprived communities, ethnic minorities, those recently unemployed within the last 12 weeks and those with health conditions that affect a person's ability to stay in work, including mental health and musculoskeletal conditions.

Blackburn with Darwen has a mature network of partners in place with a strong track record of collaborating to deliver joined up services to the same demographic groups as the WorkWell Vanguard.

The delivery plan for Blackburn with Darwen will focus on building on existing networks, partnerships and health referral pathways to support the development of integrated health and work services. It will be underpinned by a personalised tailored approach with interventions and support delivered through a multi-disciplinary team. We have joined a national knowledge exchange platform hosted by NHS Futures to share our learning with others and to learn from other WorkWell projects across the country.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Current potential risks & issues:

- Grant agreements still not finalised, however the ICB has provided assurance this will be ready in September 2024.
- Short time frame to look at potentially involving community sector partners to support with the delivery model.
- There is a 60/40 split for block payments and Payment By Results (PBR) which the funding allocation is subject to as detailed in the finance section. All delivery costs will not exceed the funding amounts awarded.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This grant is aligned to the corporate priorities across all Council Departments and conforms with the relevant national guidelines and statutory requirements

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding is via a grant paid to the ICB: the ICB hold the wider governance responsibility and manage the financial payments to localities.

Fixed block funding makes up 60% of the total allocation with 40% based on achieving participant numbers. This equates to the breakdown below:

- Block funding: £478,048
- Participant based funding: £329, 652
- Total available to Blackburn with Darwen: £807,700

All delivery costs will be managed within the funding allocation received. Robust governance will be in place within Blackburn with Darwen and with the ICB to ensure delivery requirements, costs and funding are balanced and that the Local Authority is not exposed to any cost pressures.

Detailed delivery plans are being developed and will progress through the required ICB governance. Locally, for Blackburn with Darwen, this will be the Place Based Partnership Board.

From a Council perspective any changes or increases to staffing establishments will be processed via established governance reports, eg. Workforce Management Group reports. Finance representatives will be included in ongoing meetings to ensure all staffing and resource costs are within budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The project will be conducted in compliance with the legal framework and Grant Agreement. Legal officers from the Legal and Procurement teams will be involved in the drafting and approval of the Grant Agreement, which must also include relevant requirements around safeguarding, holding, storing and sharing of data from this programme.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The management and implementation of the contract will be actioned within existing resources including but not limited to the Public Protection, Communities and Wellbeing (Environment and Communities) and Adult Learning and Employment Support (Children's and Education). The budget will sit within the Environment and Communities cost centre.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Not Applicable

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Richard Brown, Amy Greenhalgh
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DATE:	20/08/2024
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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